



NEWS RELEASE

April 29, 2015

**SVC PROFESSOR TO SPEAK AT MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD EVENT**

LATROBE, PA – Dr. Junlei Li, co-director and associate professor of early learning and children's media at the Fred Rogers Center, will present the keynote address for the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) Month of the Young Child celebration dinner at the Carnegie Museum of Art on Wednesday, April 29.

The annual celebration hosted by PAEYC will honor all early childhood practitioners and educators throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Mayor Bill Peduto and the National Association for the Education of Young Children board president, Carol Brunson Day, will be in attendance.

"The evening is a celebration of all the professionals who work with young children and who advocate on behalf of young children. Early childhood education is not just about the development of young children – it is about the development of human beings. The core values that drive each early childhood educator are the same that ought to guide how our society as a whole helps children learn in school, out of school, in college and beyond," said Li.

The Month of the Young Child is a national month-long celebration to focus on the necessities of all young children and their families and the importance of early learning and child development within all children.

Li integrates the work and mission of the Fred Rogers Center, Saint Vincent College and child-serving partners in the larger community. His research lab, Incubator 143, partners with educators, trainers, advocates, researchers and nonprofits to create positive change for young children and their families by incorporating developmental and behavioral science, communication and design and social change theory. He holds a Ph.D. in psychology and M.A. in instructional science from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in computer science from the University of Notre Dame.

Established at Saint Vincent College in 2003, the Fred Rogers Center enriches the development of current and emerging leaders in the fields of early learning and children's media by supporting the professional advancement and mentoring of the next generations of Fred Rogers through the Early Career Fellows program; educational opportunities for undergraduate Fred Rogers Scholars; research and special collaborations by Rogers Center Senior Fellows; and resources and information on the developmentally appropriate use of media. The Center is the official home of the Fred Rogers Archive as well as a straightforward, understanding and compassionate voice for the healthy social and emotional development of children birth to age 8.

For more information, visit [www.fredrogerscenter.org](http://www.fredrogerscenter.org)

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**Photo:** *Dr. Junlei Li*

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